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Right is might.

Liberty gains by experience.

To many measure the outlook by the income.

A train of evils will follow lack of training for good.

Self-denial will sometimes prove the greatest gratification.

Success comes not from making money but in making manhood.

Uncharitable feelings have no real market value in this world.

The riches piled up by parents sometimes prove the impoverishment of their children.

It is a cinch that the Car of Russia can get bad dreams at night without eating a club.

Better wear yourself out than to get rusty doing nothing. If you have made a failure there is a reason for it.

Orthodox presumption is rapidly driving the people to infidelity in that they now understand that the preachers are not the chosen representatives of the Lord.

All religions are fundamentally the same. They all believe in prayer to an imaginary deity and each maintain an army of priests to do their praying by proxy.

There are a few copies of the Paine Memorial issue left and the new Paine pamphlet will be out within a few days. Those desiring copies are requested to write to one.

Only where freedom reigns is progress possible. The God of the Jews, now strenuously worshipped by professing Christians, was nothing short of a savage, while the claims of the priesthood are simply preposterous. It may be said that where the Christian God reigns liberty is not.

Every man should be privileged to exercise his thinker without being placed under ban, without being compelled to pay some penalty. The success of Christianity is built on penalties. The penalty for opposing it in this world is social and business ostracism. The penalty in the next world is a warmer climate than Kentucky in winter time.

Freethinkers will welcome the return to literary activity of James Armstrong, editor of the *Autonomist*. His article in the Blade is well worth reading, and it is a fair illustration of what his brain and pen can produce. He has successfully demonstrated that the Holy Bible is mere sacred trash but we would like to find a stronger term with which to define it.

Estimating their true value by the compensation demanded, the preachers are willing to offer prayers in the legislature of a certain state without pay. As they ought to know just what their prayers are worth the price set may be accepted as a fair valuation. At all they are getting more than they are really worth for it is a waste of valuable time to compel the legislators to wait while prayers are said.

What Freethinkers demand is the absolute elimination of the Christian religion from the secular affairs of life. The day inevitably comes when the people grow weary of a presumptuous and cruel master and the stronger the repression has been the fiercer the explosion. American orthodox should take fair warning from what has happened in France and if Protestantism meddles with the fire it will get burnt in the process.

We have learned by sad experience, years of disappointment and suffering, that American politics as at present constituted, is no commercial palladium or industrial deity. Political parties seem bent on turning loose a Pandora's box among the toiling millions and the millions, with the results in their hands patiently submit to the torture. We need an industrial system that will enable every man to produce to his fullest capacity and enjoy the unsuit of his endeavors to the utmost.

Christianity has long since lapsed from both moral and intellectual virtue. Instead of being the avatar of love and law it is the personification of hate and discord. It sets man against man. It tears hearts asunder and destroys the home. The spark of liberty in man rebelled against such degradation and brave men appeared who had led the thinking masses from the theological graveyard to the sun-kissed, cloud-capped heights of Freedom of Thought.

Year by year American high society, with its religious hypocrisy and sham, is drifting further from the stern integrity and high purpose which characterized the infidel founders of the republic. They have entered upon that sybaritism which marked the decline of Rome and have adopted those sexual abnormalities that are the present curse of Asia. In no department of human activity is this decadence more marked than it is in the realm of religion, and this is what makes Free-thinkers.

What one man believes or what another disbelieves is of little moment, but while mere belief will not put gods on high Olympus, yet unbelief in the religion named after the man of Galilee has succeeded in extinguishing the fires of hell. The beliefs of men can neither create or uncreate. Belief of availthe nothing. Unbelief may produce changes progress emanates. If god exists he would continue to exist though the whole universe deny him, and if he is a myth all the prayers and sacrifices of a thousand years will not evolve him from the night of nothingness.

PULPIT AND PRESS ON THE THAW TRIAL.

Both pulpit and press appears to be in a state of indecision concerning the trial of Harry Thaw, now in progress before the New York courts, for the killing of Stanford White.

There may be little or no virtue in the Bible stories, or in the doctrinal and historical portion of the New Testament, but as our views on this unsavory subject have been previously expressed, the Blade would, if it could, say to the murderer of White, quintessence of the most shocking and brutalizing depravity, "go thy way and sin no more." In the killing of White, assuming all that has been printed of him be true, and the Blade sees no just reason for doubting it, Harry Thaw rendered a service to the community, extorting a bribe from the race and removed a constant source of menacing danger to the young girls of gay and giddy Gotham.

It is amusing, however, to note the expressions of the various religious bodies and church representatives upon the subject. Many perhaps the majority, protest against the publication of much of the testimony, while the more thoughtful among them appear to regard the publicity of such a revolting narrative as a blessing in disguise, upon the hypothesis that the knowledge thus vouchsafed stands with warning finger extended to all young girls, bidding them to tread different paths from those pursued by the young woman who has given such testimony in an effort to save her husband from death. As a matter of fact the ministers of Providence, R. L. professor to see in the public records of the trial the "greatest moral lesson of the age" and approve of even a wider publicity on the ground that it affords an "invaluable object lesson for the public." Others would eliminate every essential feature on the trial, claiming that it is "not fit to print" and the W. C. T. U., or, as Mr. Wakeman once designated that organization, "We'll See You" denounces the publication of Evelyn Thaw's testimony as being "gross and shocking."

The most terrible outburst comes from the Methodist Christian Advocate, of New York, which charges that the use of money is being resorted to in order to hire perjured testimony, to change the actual facts in the case, to create a false public opinion, and to stir up a bias in favor of the accused prejudicial to public morality and to defeat the ends of justice.

Justice! Aye, did White be given justice he could have been killed long ago and many a human heart would have been spared days of agony, torture and suffering. The moral lesson contained in the trial is that it should stand as a warning to every man who harbors evil designs against social purity, against the chastity of women who would lure children to social ruin and then boast of his prowess, that he had best change his plans and abandon those ways that are so dark and the tricks that are so vain.

The Blade does not make this assertion as a means of offering a defense of Thaw for his conduct. In very truth he was little better than the man he killed and the world would have been far better off had neither of them lived. It may be true that Evelyn Nesbit had been forced to her ruin, but Evelyn Thaw seemed to be following the same course until the last few months of her married life. The trio were neither of use or ornament to society.

But what right has the Christian religion to complain or even to use the trial to point a moral or adorn a tale? Had it spent more time in building up human character and less in torturing, burning and boycotting unbelievers, such conditions that could produce a Thaw, a Nesbit and a White, might never have obtained. Above all, does it not demonstrate the utter absurdity, folly and powerlessness of the Christian religion for good?

An all-consuming love may become cold reasons humble slave and human passion may yield blind obedience unto precept, but Christianity, having peopled the insane with a threatening god, or gods, builded a gaping, yawning hell to terrify, and in spite of resolutions and whereabouts, prayers and psalms, the Papian Venus still flourishes and flaunts her scarlet flag in the face of the orthodox heaven. Everywhere they have added fuel to the unholy fires of lust, but seldom have we read, outside of fiction, of a man so notoriously and brutally bad as was Stanford White.

Sex relationship is one of the most difficult problems humanity has yet to solve. In that solution liberty must not be taken for license. The progressive woman will be made to learn that her virtue is in her own keeping and that she is, after all, the guardian of her own morals. No woman of mature judgment was ever led astray unless she cheerfully held out the string to be led by. Woman has had to learn at the bitter school of experience, For long years she was held to be the creature of man's caprice, the drudge or ornament of his home, mistress of neither her body or her mind. Under modern conditions she has power over both. This power rightly used will make her free and independent, but let her be abused and the land is filled with unfaithful wives and the potter's field with prostitutes.

In the case of Evelyn Nesbit things were different. She, a mere child and scarce at the age of puberty. Unschool'd in the wiles of the wicked world she was led into a deliberately planned trap. Made drunk with rich wine, robbed of her senses by the fumes of the liquor she was robbed of her virtue and another life was ruined. From that moment her degradation became deeper, more intense, and she began to assume the same easy morals that have from time immemorial characterized the sterner sex. Man is, by nature, polygamous. Woman is the reverse. Nature made man to seek, the woman to be sought. Passions fiery scourge drives the one, the maternal longings gently leads the other. Thus is the law of fulfilled.

After all, Stanford White only got what he deserved, and whether Harry Thaw go unpunished or otherwise, the latter has rendered a service to the community for which he is entitled to some credit.

THE ROCK OF EQUAL RIGHTS.

To what sad end is the poor old religion of Christ coming?

What is it that is so disturbing the clans that confronted with the danger of dissolution and disintegration cry of bitter anguish and despair is heard.

The answer is plain!

It is the quiet, upward, persistent march of Freethought. For such a consummation the heroes of the past have labored long and hard. They have given of their talent and means to further the end. Those who had genius to apply gave it. Those who had means, lacking genius, helped as they could and the good work went along.

Now let us ask, what are the results?

For answer we have but to point to the constant, hearty resistance that is being manifested on almost every hand to the power and influence of the church. France has put it out of the business so far as that republic is concerned and with fifteen thousand men in Italy making a demonstration favorable to France, the theological institutions in Germany being assailed by the progressive spirit of Freethought, all point to a united and determined effort to prevent the future pre-eminence of the church in the affairs of the state.

How long will it be before men of such personal influence as Dr. Crapsey, Dr. Peters and Dr. Briggs, once convoked upon a trial for heresy, others leaving the pulpit of their own volition, will demand an equal place in both pulpit and seminary with their orthodox colleagues. Feeling Latin religious belief or unbelief largely depends upon educational influences and social environment, these men, sited in a quiet way, by the more radical forces, will succeed in getting into the curriculum of the theological institutions of learning more liberal ideas that have pertained hitherto. They will really constitute the light artillery of the progressive and liberal elements of the country, leaving the heavier fighters to finish the work.

All this means that advanced theology is becoming more advanced and if it keeps on advancing Freethinkers will have to assume new ground or they will meet upon an intellectual parity. It is also interesting to note that the advanced theologists of today are occupying precisely the ground as that occupied by the Infidels of yesterday. In this way the world of thought is made to move forward, progressing every hour.

What are the evidences of this disintegration? Simply this. The church is growing more and more perturbed over the fact that it is compelled to mete out punishment to recalcitrant pastors and professors, who, their pulpits and in their chairs, preach and teach a new and an advanced theology so unlike the old theology that the entire face of Christianity has undergone a change. Of course this preaching was contradictory to the official decretations and confessions of the church. This contradiction evoked a sincere working of the mind and mind working has ever been fatal to orthodox religious belief. There can be no orthodoxy that is not dogmatic and dogmatism is ever hurtful to truth. The truth can afford to be dogmatic because it is truth and must be so from its very nature. Dogmatism avert speculative subjects and theories in the bane of investigation and this is where the church has committed one of its most grievous errors.

Equal rights in instruction will be the rock upon which the church is split. When it does strike the effect will be startling and well worthy the highest consideration of thoughtful people.

CHRISTIAN HISTORY.

"To make religious belief and religious theory completely dependent on certain records of historic events is a grave mistake, for religion has nothing to do with the credibility or authenticity of a certain document, or the actuality of certain alleged occurrences."

The foregoing statement is attributed to one Arthur O. Lovejoy, said to be Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis. If he really believes what he says then it is a sure case of "having to be shown." As religious belief and theory are not based upon intellectual conviction, being largely dependent upon the accident birth and the force of environment, the Professor is not only begging the question but has really furnished one of the strongest arguments against the Christian religion that it has been our good fortune to come across.

One of the principal contentions of the Christian world is that the events, or supposed events, as recorded in the New Testament, are true. Upon the truth or falsity of those events depends the entire Christian conception of religious belief and theory. If the events of the New Testament can be proved to be true, the Christian world is furnished with a tangible working basis. Should the reverse occur the Christian religion is deprived of its essential qualifications and credentials and is like a ship without sail or rudder in a storm.

For example, the Christian religion asserts that the miraculous conception of Jesus is true. If that event is not historically true then the entire fabric of Christianity is materially affected and must accept the charge of being false. Does it not follow, then, that the very essentials of the Christian religion has something to do with the credibility and authenticity of certain documents?" If the documents of the New Testament are incredible the vitality of the Christian religion is assailed. If they are not authentic then the doctrine of inspiration becomes absolutely null and void. Had there been No Christ there would have been no religion named after him and as an alleged "historic event" his birth, life and death, constitute the very foundations of the religious cult that carries his acquired title. His crucifixion, death and resurrection are proclaimed as "accurate and truthful historic events" upon which is altogether "dependent" the most important part of the Christian religion. Do they or impair them and you have to that extent destroyed or impaired the Christian religion. In this respect the learned professor has contributed a strong argument to the Freethought side of the religious proposition, although we are inclined to believe that it was unintentional upon his part.

If it was intended that the statement should be made to apply to religion pure and simple, without specifying any form of religion, simply to regard "religious" idea as it is called, then there may be some basis for Professor Lovejoy to work upon. We must all admit that whatever there is of religion in it can only be a matter of personal experience, for beyond that the individual cannot go. Different experiences lead to different notions concerning religion. There is nothing pertaining to worship or doctrine suggested by the innate experiences of man. All these forms are acquired, being taught and retaught from one generation to another. Man left alone, that is, without so-called religious instruction, would develop into practical Atheism. It is an impossibility to associate the god-idea with any of our practical, personal experiences. God does not appear in them in any shape or form. If by religion, is meant to include the god-idea, then the proposition is erroneous and cannot be made to withstand criticism. Freethought has long argued that the final unity of opinion concerning religion, and its concomitants, will never be reached by scholars and thinkers because of their personal experiences, and this very fact vitiates the theological argument. Man enjoys some inner lights of reason which direct and guide his outer experiences, but these have nothing to do with religion or any of its forms of worship, for left to reason, religion will die.

The Professor professes to believe that the Christian church will not depend for its future vitality upon the importance it decides to attach to so-called history and upon the hypothesis that he refers to so-called religious history. In fact we are of the firm opinion that the day is not far distant when the Bible and all the literature that is made dependent upon it, and upon which it depends, will be as dead and useless as all the mummified cats of Ancient Egypt, and as the Christian religion is destined to no longer draw its vitality from such a source, is tantalizing to saying that there will be no Christian religion when the day arrives.

Christianity is altogether dependent upon its history, a history, by the way, that is both doubtful and dark, questionable and looked upon with doubt and disfavor by intelligent minds. Destroy its history and you at once destroy Christianity.

Industrial slavery and political degradation run hand in hand. When labor is denied by law its rights and just privileges, when it is kept with its nose to the grindstone for a miserable existence, our boasted political freedom vanishes like a dream. The money kings hold over the toiling millions the very power of life and death. Where labor is granted as a privilege and not as a right there is no political freedom. And who is to blame? If the remedy is in the ballot box and it is not used labor simply commits social and political suicide.

During Adam's first century on earth there were no collar buttons to lose and he did not have to study the latest encruse in pantaloons. No laundry bills bothered him and he could shoot out the lights without getting into a chicken court. But Adam was not civilized, hence we are to infer he was not blessed as we are blessed.

